

BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1949.



BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
For the Year 1949.

BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1949.

BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Health Department

FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Chairman of the Council	....	S. H. HAMMERSLEY, Esq., J.P.
Vice-Chairman of the Council	....	DR. C. HICKS, C.C.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	....	W. E. HOBBS, Esq.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MRS. E. D. WALKER.	S. H. HAMMERSLEY, Esq., J.P.
L. J. BOFFEY, Esq.	DR. C. HICKS, C.C.
E. G. CASH, Esq.	W. E. HOBBS, Esq.
W. T. FOX, Esq.	F. STANFORD, Esq., J.P.
E. GITTUS, Esq., C.C.	E. A. TURNER, Esq., J.P., C.C.
E. V. GODRICH, Esq.	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	....	N. BASTER, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health		V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	....	P. P. CHAMINGS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Additional Sanitary Inspector	....	R. F. ROBINS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	....	K. J. SMITH.
Clerks	....	MISS M. M. NORTON. MISS M. E. JUKES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In the absence of Dr. Baster, following his resignation as Medical Officer to this District and his taking up a post in Canada, I have much pleasure in presenting to you his report of the state of the public health in Bromsgrove Rural District, for the year 1949, and a report of the work carried out by your Health Department.

In the main, this is Dr. Baster's report, but I have inserted the statistical data which were not available to him at the time of his departure.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 45,610.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population	mid 1949	—	28,060
	mid 1948	—	26,880
	mid 1947	—	25,230
	mid 1937	—	19,620
Number of inhabited houses—	end of 1949	—	8,030
	end of 1948	—	7,880
	end of 1947	—	7,798
	end of 1937	—	6,645

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1949 £156,441.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £618.

Population by Parishes.

					<i>Estimated</i>	
					1939.	1949.
Alvechurch	....	....	....	....	3236	4480
Belbroughton	....	....	....	....	2676	2660
Bentley Pauncefoot	....	....	....	....	344	360
Beoley	....	....	....	....	770	870
Clent	....	....	....	....	1943	2020
Cofton Hackett	....	....	....	....	3736	4460
Dodford-with-Grafton	....	....	....	....	513	550
Frankley	....	....	....	....	184	240
Hagley	....	....	....	....	2233	2600
Hunnington	....	....	....	....	543	520
Romsley	....	....	....	....	1070	1040
Stoke Prior	....	....	....	....	2130	2310
Tutnall & Cobley	....	....	....	....	697	750
Wythall	....	....	....	....	4482	5200
TOTALS					24,557	28,060

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.			
	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	221	190	411
Illegitimate	11	7	18
Total	232	197	429

Birth-rate (Births per 1,000 population):—

1949	1948	1947	1937	(1949 England & Wales)
15.29	18.16	19.26	14.1	16.7

Illegitimacy Rate (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births) :

1949	1948	1947	1937
41.96	53.3	34.9	32.0

Still-Births.			
	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	6	5	11

Still-Birth Rate (Still-births per 1,000 total Population) :—

1949	1948	1947	(1949 England & Wales)
0.39	0.48	0.55	0.39

Deaths		
M.	F.	Total.
150	131	281

Death-rate (Deaths per 1,000 population) :—

1949	1948	1947	1937	(1949 England & Wales)
10.01	9.4	9.9	11.1	11.7

Maternal Deaths.			
Puerperal Sepsis ....	....	....	—
Other Maternal Causes ....	....	....	—
Total ....	....	....	—

Maternal Mortality (Maternal deaths per 1,000 total live and still births) :—

1949	1948	1947	1937	(1949 England & Wales)
Nil.	4.0	2.0	Nil.	0.98

Infant Deaths.			
	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ...	7	4	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	7	4	11

Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 related live births) :—

	1949	1948	1947	1937 (1949 England & Wales)
Legitimate	25.6	24.6	34.9	29.7
Illegitimate	Nil.	Nil.	2.0	11.1
	25.6	24.6	37.3	32.4
				32.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT

1949.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.	TOTAL.	Mortality rate per 1,000 Pop.
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2	0.07
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1	1	0.04
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	—	—
9. Influenza ...	2	5	7	0.25
10. Measles ...	—	—	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	1	—	1	0.04
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	3	9	0.32
15. Cancer of Breast ...	—	5	5	0.18
16. Cancer of all other sites ...	19	19	38	1.35
17. Diabetes ...	1	2	3	0.11
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	17	15	32	1.14
19. Heart Disease ...	42	42	84	2.99
20. Other Diseases of circulatory system ...	11	5	16	0.57
21. Bronchitis ...	7	6	13	0.46
22. Pneumonia ...	9	1	10	0.36
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4	2	6	0.21
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	3	—	3	0.11
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ...	—	2	2	0.07
27. Other digestive diseases ...	4	—	4	0.14
28. Nephritis ...	3	3	6	0.21
29. Puerperal & Post Abortive sepsis	—	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes ...	—	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth ...	2	—	2	0.07
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries and other infant diseases	2	2	4	0.14
33. Suicide ...	4	1	5	0.18
34. Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	—	1	0.04
35. Other Violent Causes ...	2	2	4	0.14
36. All other Causes ...	8	15	23	0.82
TOTALS ...	150	131	281	10.01

The Birth-rate (15.29) is slightly lower than the previous year's rate, but is still above the pre-war figure. It is below the rate for the whole country (16.7). The total number of live births is 429, compared with 488 last year. The Illegitimacy Rate (41.96) is rather lower than that which obtained for the previous year.

The Still-Birth Rate shows a further reduction to 0.39, which is a welcome fall.

The Death-rate at 10.01 is low, but shows a rise of 0.6 compared with the previous year. It compares very favourably with the National figure of 11.7.

Maternal Mortality. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Infantile Mortality. The infant death-rate at 25.6 is remarkably low. It is more than 6 per 1,000 less than that for the whole country. It is unlikely that any further improvement in this figure will be recorded for many years, as, in general, the main causes of infant death are now excluded and the problem of tackling the more varied and obscure forms of infant death must engage our attention.

Deaths.

The major causes were as follows (by percentage):—

1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory system (including apoplexy)	....	46.6%	of all deaths.
2. Cancer (all forms)	....	18.9%	do.
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	....	10.3%	do.
4. Violence	....	3.6%	do.
5. Tuberculosis	....	1.1%	do.

The proportion of deaths due to disease of the Heart and Circulatory System is higher than that obtaining during the previous year, and it still constitutes the major cause.

The proportion due to Cancer is somewhat higher and in general deaths due to Cancer do seem to be on the increase. This can probably be explained by three factors:—

1. Better diagnosis ;
2. As Cancer is usually a disease affecting people in the second half of life, and as more people reach the second half of life, the incidence of death due to Cancer can be expected to increase ; and
3. There is probably an actual increase in the incidence of Cancer for which there is no obvious explanation.

The proportion of deaths due to Tuberculosis shows a decrease compared with the previous year.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Services provided by the County Council.

The County Council, as Welfare and Education Authority, provides the majority of the personal health services for the District. These Services include :—

(a) **Child Welfare.** The following is a list of Child Welfare Clinics held in the district :—

Alvechurch	1st and 3rd Wednesday in month.
Beoley	3rd Wednesday in month.
Belbroughton	1st and 3rd Monday in month.
Cofton Hackett	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month.
Clent	2nd and 4th Monday in month.
Finstall	1st and 3rd Thursday in month.
Hagley	2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.
West Heath	Every Friday.
Wythall	2nd and 4th Wednesday.

At these clinics, children up to the age of five are seen by doctors and health visitors. The work is essentially preventive and the children are examined in order to see that they are making satisfactory progress. The mothers are given advice on the care of children and, when any illness or defect is found, the mother is advised to take the child to the family doctor for treatment. A great deal of valuable work in improving the health of children is carried out in these clinics by the medical and nursing staff and the voluntary workers.

(b) **Health Visitors' Service.** The County Council provides a service of Health Visitors throughout the district. They are as follows :—

Mrs. Jones, Clifford's Cottage, Beoley.	Alvechurch. Cofton Hackett. Wythall.
Miss Bullock. 2, Church Avenue, Clent.	Belbroughton. Clent.
Miss Partridge, Mount Hill Cottages, Hanbury.	Bentley.
Miss Sheppard, 100 Heathfield Road, Redditch.	Beoley. Tardebigge.
Mrs. Bryan, 25, Windsor Street, Bromsgrove.	Dodford. Fairfield. Tutnall & Cobley.

Miss A. Lawson,
8, Chesterwood Road,
King's Heath,
Birmingham 14.

West Heath.
Frankley.
Wildmoor.

Miss Gooding,
40, New Road,
Stourbridge.

Hagley.

Mrs. Irwin,
Flat 1,
40, Britannia Square,
Worcester.

Stoke Prior.
Timberhonger.

Miss Abbott,
40, New Road,
Stourbridge.

Hunnington.
Romsley.

They were either directly employed by the County Council or in some cases by the Nursing Associations. The work of the Health Visitor has been, in the past, mainly in connection with child welfare and they have visited the homes of young children and given practical advice to the mothers on the bringing up of their young children. This work has probably been the most valuable contribution to the Public Health in the last 20 to 30 years, and it is reflected in the very much improved physical condition of children and young people of to-day.

Their work is being extended now to cover advice to the whole family in health matters, which one feels will be of considerable benefit to the community.

Nurse Denny, 3 Tenbury Road, King's Heath, Birmingham 14 is now Tuberculosis Nurse for the whole area.

(c) **The Midwifery Service.** The County Council provides a Maternity Service based primarily on the District Midwife. The County Council employ midwives, some of whom work solely as midwives and some of whom combine that duty with those of a District Nurse.

A woman can now have the choice of having her confinement conducted by her own family doctor or by the Midwife. Generally, opinion is in favour of Midwives carrying out normal confinements, while the abnormal can be attended by the family doctor or by admission to hospital.

A woman can have ante-natal supervision either from her own doctor or from an ante-natal clinic provided by the County Council. In general, the ante-natal clinics provide the more systematic supervision, but in country districts lack of accessibility is a handicap. At present the Maternity Service suffers from a lack of integration—the County Council being responsible for part of it and the general practitioner for another part,

and the Regional Hospital Board for another. No doubt in time the necessary integration will be achieved to make it into one service.

The Regional Hospital Board provide the maternity homes serving the district :—

The Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge.

The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.

Rigby Hall Maternity Hospital, Bromsgrove.

There is another maternity hospital in Redditch, run on the lines of a voluntary hospital, admitting patients from the Rural District. This is an excellently equipped and conducted home ; a part-charge is made, and its services have been invaluable in view of the acute shortage of maternity homes. It is hoped that in the near future the new maternity hospital at All Saints will be in service.

(d) School Health Services.

The County Council, as Education Authority, provide a comprehensive School Health Service. This consists of routine periodic inspection and the arrangement of facilities for treatment in special Clinics provided by the County Council, for example ophthalmic, orthopaedic, dental and minor ailments, and where necessary reference to a hospital.

In general the school dental service has been maintained and essential work carried out in spite of the acute shortage of dentists. Throughout the whole country only a small amount of school dental treatment has been carried out : the scheme for priority dental treatment for expectant mothers and young children has been a farce and they have stayed at the back of the queue owing to the reluctance of local authorities to pay the dentists adequately and to the failure of the Minister to do anything about it.

(e) Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council provides a Laboratory for Chemical examination and for the Bacteriological examination of waters and milks.

The Public Health Laboratory Service Laboratory at the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, carries out all other necessary laboratory services, and the bacteriologist is available to assist in investigations and collection of specimens and material.

(f) Hospital Services.

Hospitals serving this District, under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, are as follows :—

- (1) Infectious Disease. Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.
Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen.
Little Bromwich Hospital, Birmingham.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (2) Tuberculosis. | Knightwick Sanatorium, and Hayley Green Sanatorium. |
| (3) Smallpox. | Worcestershire County Council Smallpox Hospital, Worcester. |
| (4) Maternity. | Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge.
Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.
Rigby Hall Maternity Hospital, Bromsgrove.
The Redditch Maternity Hospital Redditch. (This latter is a Voluntary Hospital and is available to anyone wishing to make use of its Services. Fees are charged to cover part of the cost).
The Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Birmingham. |
| (5) Children's Diseases. | The Children's Hospital, Birmingham. |
| (6) Venereal Disease. | The General Hospital, Birmingham, and the Royal Infirmary, Worcester. |
| (7) Mental Illness. | Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove, and Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern. |
| (8) General. | The Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital, The Smallwood Hospital, Redditch, and the General Hospitals, Birmingham. |

(g) Diphtheria Immunisation Service.

This is provided by the County Council. Locally it is administered jointly with the service provided for the Bromsgrove Urban District.

(h) The Ambulance Service.

This is provided by the County Council and the Rural District is serviced from surrounding centres.

(i) Health Education.

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education and leaflets and posters were obtained from them and were used for display and distribution throughout the whole of the District in connection with the prevention of the major Infectious Diseases. An increase in this work is to be expected, and a great deal more of it must be carried out in co-operation with the County Council. It would seem reasonable that the County Council should be responsible for the General Health Education, while this Council remains responsible for giving information in connection with specific Infectious Diseases.

(j) Tuberculosis—After-care.

During the year a committee was set up to provide for the after-care of tuberculous persons. This is a very important aspect of the treatment of tuberculosis, because the disease is characterised by two complicating factors.

1. The age group most affected is that containing wage earners.
2. It is a slow illness, the patient often being ill and off work for several years.

Therefore, apart from medical treatment usually financial help is necessary and often assistance in other ways—for example, the finding of suitable work. It is with these latter aspects that the after-care committee will concern themselves.

During the year there was little for the committee to do, but its work and scope will increase steadily and presumably it will take over further functions as time passes. The main task during the year was to get the committee organised. One suggestion put forward was that the committee should combine with that set up by the Bromsgrove Urban District: if the committee takes over general after-care of the sick, as I feel it could do, particularly the after-care of the mentally sick, it should have a plate full enough to keep it busy. Its functions are delegated by the County After-care Committee and, therefore, its scope is regulated and will be decided by the County Committee, but I do hope that it will be able to function fully, to provide interesting and very useful work for its members. The Committee is as follows :—

Mrs. B. H. Bate, “Lydiate House,” Belbroughton.

Mrs. E. D. Walker, 17 Cofton Church Lane, Barnt Green.

Dr. C. Hicks, “Little Acre,” Clent.

Mrs. M. Johnson, “Pendyke,” Station Road, Hagley.

Rev. S. P. Roweroft, The Rectory, Frankley, Birmingham 32.

Mr. W. E. Hobbs, “Wayside,” Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington.

Mr. O. J. Skinner, Ministry of Labour, Bromsgrove.

Mrs. E. Jones, Cliffords Cottage, Beoley.

Nurse Denny, 3 Tenbury Road, King’s Heath, Birmingham 14.

Dr. R. B. Mayfield, County Buildings, Worcester.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year great efforts were made to obtain a good deal of information which it was felt your Health Department should have concerning the general sanitary circumstances of the District. This was carried out particularly in connection with the Rural Housing Survey, which was completed, and in connection with water supplies. A detailed account of the Sanitary work is given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector in his report.

2. Water Supply.

In general the more populous parts of the District are supplied with a piped water supply and the tendency is to extend this water supply as far as possible throughout the District. In the more scattered areas wells are in general use and it is obvious that in many cases it will be totally uneconomical to supply piped water in many of the most sparsely populated parts of the District.

One of the advantages of the Town and Country Planning Act will be that in future development will take place in more compact units to which water can be economically supplied.

We still have in the District, however, some quite compactly populated areas without a satisfactory water supply, and every effort must be made in the next few years to provide such a supply, but co-operation with the Planning Authority must be sought in order that money will not be spent in areas where no further development will be permitted.

It is worth while remembering that water from wells serving scattered populations in the country does not constitute the same menace to health as does that from wells serving more compact areas of population.

The problem of providing Dairy Farms with a satisfactory water supply is acute as many rely on water supplies which are far from satisfactory, and considerable sums of money will have to be spent to provide suitable water supplies for them if we are to rest assured that the milk which is produced is not going to be a danger to the Public Health. Here the co-operation of the Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee, I am sure, would be valuable, as their advice as to the prospects of milk production on the various farms under consideration would be worth while to avoid needless expenditure. The supply of water to such farms could in some places be organised in such a way that it may also serve a number of other properties, rendering it a more economical undertaking.

The quantity and quality of water in the District varies considerably, the mains supply being satisfactory, the well supplies being, in general, unsatisfactory.

The amount of routine sampling of well water supplies was considerably increased during the year, 116 samples for baeteriological or chemical analysis being taken as opposed to 49 the previous year, and must be increased even further in order that we may have a complete picture of conditions throughout the District. Sampling from the mains was carried out in various parts of the District ; nine samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

Sampling at the sourcee is carried out by the Water Undertakers.

Following are specimens of results of samples taken from the various mains supplies within this District ; they are all satisfactory.

WATER UNDERTAKINGS.	EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATERWORKS CO. Sampled in Fairfield.	CITY OF BIRMINGHAM WATER DEPARTMENT Sampled in Frankley.	STOUBRIDGE & DISTRICT WATER BOARD. Sampled in Belbroughton.	SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS CO. Sampled in Romsley.	BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL. Sampled in Beoley.
Physical Characters	Clear	Opalescent	Clear	Clear	Clear
Odour	None	None	None	None	None
Deposit.	None	Brown	None	None	Very slight brown
pH.	7.7	8.0	7.4	7.1	7.8
Chemical Examination. *Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C).	None	Trace	Nil	None	Slight trace
*Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	32	7	66	24	47
*Solids in Solution after Ignition.	25	3	60	21	32
*Chlorides Calculated as Com- mon Salt.	3.4	0.7	10.5	3.6	3
*Hardness Permanent.	8	1	19	2	4
*Hardness Temporary.	13	2	20	9	27
*Hardness Total	21	3	39	11	31
*Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0008	0.0006	0.002	0.000	0.003
*Albuminoid Ammonia.	0.0008	0.0092	0.002	0.0012	0.003
*Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates.)	Trace	None	0.35	0.41	Trace
*Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None	Nil	None	None
*Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C.	None	0.16	0.013	None	0.01
*Toxic Metals.	None detected	None detected	None detected	None detected	None detected
Bacteriological Examination. No. of Colonies Developing upon Agar. (a) In 2 days at 37°C per 1 m.l.	Nil	20	1	2	2
(b) In 3 days at 22°C per 1 m.l.	1	20	1	2	6
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count. per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
*Expressed in parts per 100,000.					

The Supply of Water in the parishes is as follows :—

PARISH.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.				From Private Supplies, e.g. Wells, Springs, Etc.	
	Direct to Houses.		By means of Standpipe.			
	No. of dwelling-houses.	Population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	Population.		
Alvechurch	1152	4031	—	—	138	483
Belbroughton	540	1890	—	—	209	732
Bentley Pauncefoot	35	122	—	—	66	231
Beoley	18	63	25	87	206	721
Clent	521	1823	—	—	58	203
Coston Hackett	1247	4364	—	—	6	21
Dodford-with-Grafton	4	25	—	—	155	529
Frankley	29	101	—	—	28	98
Hagley	732	2561	—	—	15	52
Hunnington	141	493	—	—	6	21
Romsley	230	804	—	—	57	200
Stoke Prior	525	1837	—	—	136	476
Tutnall and Cobley	135	472	—	—	86	301
Wythall	1439	5036	—	—	91	318
TOTALS	6748	23622	25	87	1257	4386

There have been extensions of mains during the year as follows :—

Bromsgrove Rural District Council,	225 yards.
City of Birmingham Water Department,	2878 yards.
East Worcestershire Waterworks Co.,	1553 yards.
South Staffs. Water Co.,	91 yards.
Stourbridge and District Water Board,	115 yards.

Proposed extensions of mains in order of priority are as follows :—

* Priority.	Location.	Parish.
1.	Wildmoor.	Belbroughton.
2.	Dodford Village.	Dodford-with-Grafton.
3.	Woodgate, Harbours Hill and Sharpway Gate.	Stoke Prior.
4.	Beoley (outside Village area).	Beoley.
5.	Madeley Heath.	Belbroughton.
6.	Walton Pool.	Clent.
7.	Upper Bentley.	Bentley Paucefoot.
8.	Snuff Hill and Croppings Green.	Belbroughton.
9.	Rumbow.	Clent.

*Subject to possible amendment.

3. Drainage and Sewerage.

The main built-up areas, with one or two exceptions, are sewered, about two thirds of the total number of houses being connected to sewers. Sewerage is very closely linked with water supply and, generally speaking, where there is a mains water supply, sewerage is essential. In scattered areas sewerage is not practicable and reliance has to be placed on some conservancy method. In the case of the better property, cesspools are used where water supply is available. In poorer property usually pails are in use. Generally, systems of sewage disposal, other than by sewerage and disposal in properly constructed sewage works, cannot be considered satisfactory from a health point of view, and, therefore, every effort should be made to ensure where possible extensions to sewers in order to serve the greatest possible number of properties.

It will be obvious that this is not possible in many parts of the district, where the cost of sewerage would be completely prohibitive, and reliance must be placed on other methods of sewage disposal. These can be improved by the use of a cesspool emptying service and pail emptying service.

It will be appreciated that the more closely aggregated are populations the greater will be the danger from poor sewage disposal.

The main criterion, unfortunately, which we must adopt is a financial one, and it is very difficult to show, in terms of money, the value to the community of sewage disposal systems, and considerable sums have to be expended on schemes which will not show any apparent immediate return.

Sewage Disposal Works are situated in the District as follows :—

Alvechurch	-	Lye Bridge.
Clent	-	Hassell Lane) with land
	-	Horse Pasture) irrigation.
Cofton Hackett	-	Kingswood Road—Pumping Station to Birmingham.
	-	Cofton Road.
Hagley	-	Sweetpool.
Hunnington	-	Illey Lane.
Stoke Prior	-	Stoke Works.
	-	Fininstall—Pumping Station to Broms-grove U.D.C.
Wythall	-	Houndsfield Lane.

They are all properly constructed plants and gave satisfactory service throughout the year.

Proposed extensions of sewers are at Alvechurch, Romsley, and Wythall, and new sewerage schemes with the necessary disposal works are proposed for Belbroughton and Beoley : it is hoped that the work at Belbroughton, the most urgent, will begin in the near future.

The Council provide a cesspool emptying service.

4. Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor's Department. Collection, as far as possible, is carried out fortnightly, though this service in such an extensive district is very difficult to maintain with a limited staff. Collection in the many parts of the district which are semi-urban in character is a much bigger problem than it is in a fully urbanised district, though it calls for the same efficient service.

The problem of collecting refuse is exercising the minds of most authorities to-day, as it is becoming increasingly difficult due to labour shortage. It is obviously one of the least sought after types of work, and where there is a general shortage of labour it is one of the jobs to feel the shortage most. A good deal of thought is being given to the problem of making the most of the labour available by improved methods of collection and transport.

Disposal is by controlled tipping at five sites, placed to serve the main aggregations of population ; they are at Alvechurch, Belbroughton, Hagley, Stoke Prior, and Wythall.

No. of Bins of Refuse Collected 207,652.

Paper salvage 65 tons.

5. Rivers Pollution.

The Worcestershire County Council is the Rivers Pollution Prevention Authority.

Apart from sewage pollution I do not think it is likely that other pollution takes place in the District.

6. Verminous Conditions.

This is not a big problem in this district and occasioned only one or two treatments in the year.

7. Rodent Control.

This was carried out in the case of agricultural land and buildings by the Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee ; in the case of your Authority's undertakings, sewage works and refuse tips, and in the case of private properties, by your Sanitary Department. A charge is made for work carried out on private and business premises to off-set the cost.

This is particularly important work, as rats and mice are the known vectors of a number of serious diseases. They also cause considerable economic loss each year both by the food they eat and the damage they do, and on the economic side rodent control amply repays the money expended upon it.

8. Factories.

The Council has duties under the Factories Act Parts 1 and 8. One of the duties is to keep an up-to-date register, which now contains four factories in which non-mechanical power is used, and seventy-two factories in which mechanical power is used. The necessary inspections of these factories were carried out during the year and the necessary action taken where breaches of the Factories Act were discovered.

The names of three Outworkers in the District were notified during the year.

9. Tents, Vans and Sheds.

This problem remained and increased in size and complexity during the year. The District is an obvious choice for caravanning and shack erection, being an attractive rural district, adjacent to large urban areas with severe housing shortages.

Holiday camping and caravanning does not present a very severe problem; most caravanners are members of the Caravan Club of Great Britain and maintain a high standard ; the main problem is the control of shack-development.

There are one or two areas in the district where this development has taken place, but these areas have been well controlled from a sanitary point of view, and do not constitute any nuisance on these grounds. Unfortunately, Press publicity was given to one site during the year, and the Planning Authority produced a report, which described the site in question with the usual degree of inaccuracy with which we have come to associate with planning reports. These sites are very carefully controlled from a sanitary point of view, and if any further control is necessary it must come from a planning standpoint, though it must be difficult for the Town Planners to point the finger of criticism at shack sites when one considers the way they are desecrating the countryside with architect-designed housing sites.

There would seem to be no reason why the Council should not provide camping sites, as the supply of pure water and the proper disposal of refuse and sewage are of vital importance, and a local authority are in a specially favourable position to supply these services. If we cannot supply people with the houses they need, surely it is not unreasonable for them to be supplied with a piece of ground on which to camp ! This is a problem which is going to engage the serious attention of the Council for the next ten years or more, and I feel certain that the only satisfactory solution will be the provision of publicly-owned and managed sites.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The general remarks made in the 1948 report apply to 1949 ; the position at the end of 1949 did not differ materially from that at the end of 1948.

In general the side effects of legislation passed since the war have greatly aggravated the position of those millions without houses. Some advocate a separate Ministry of Housing, others that private builders should be allowed to build houses ; whichever course we adopt it would be a miracle if it resulted in less houses being erected than under the present system. During the year the Council erected 82 houses against a waiting list of approximately 800, and it was heartbreaking having to tell people living in shocking housing conditions that it would be some years before they could hope for relief.

During the year some progress was made towards the provision of smaller houses and flats, and there is no doubt that with the present high building costs and housing shortage, more progress will need to be made in this direction : had this been allowed by the Ministry earlier, a larger number of dwellings could have been supplied. Another important aspect is rent ; the bigger the number of houses erected by a local authority the bigger contribution its rates must make towards the subsidy and, therefore, the higher the inclusive rent. There is growing evidence of increasing difficulty to pay the high rents demanded, and this in boom years—what of the future ?

I earnestly recommend the Council to concentrate on smaller dwellings.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Food Premises.

Inspection of food premises, that is, where food is prepared, stored or sold, is carried out under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. Although this Act was passed over ten years ago, its implementation has been very greatly retarded by the war and by the labour and materials shortage which has followed the war.

The handling of food must be considered as being, at present, far from satisfactory, and in many cases both the premises are unsuitable and the handlers untrained. The magnitude of this problem should be appreciated because it is not one which can be dealt with in a short time ; it needs considerable rebuilding of premises, considerable re-equipping of premises, and considerable education of staff. As labour and material become more plentiful it should be possible to deal with the former, and at present your Inspectors make every effort to ensure that the best is made of what accommodation is available.

The training of food handlers, however, constitutes the major problem, and it is generally agreed that this will have to be started in the schools in order that the basic principles of cleanliness and the care of food are properly understood, and become instinctive in food handlers. As the food industry is so enormous, it is obvious that continuous supervision is impossible. Unfortunately, very often the food industry does not attract the best type of worker, which means that their training will be much harder.

There has been, in recent years, a considerable rise in the incidence of Food Poisoning, due to a variety of reasons, not the least of which must be the communal provision of meals, and supervision carried out by the local authority will have to be increased.

2. Meat.

The transport of meat has been improved during the year and proper lorries are now used. There is still room for improvement in the actual handling of the meat, though, and the hanging of meat during transport should be pressed for.

3. Milk.

During the year the control of milk production passed to the Ministry of Agriculture ; this body is setting up a large and costly inspectorate to carry out duties formerly carried out by sanitary inspectors as part of their normal work. Though the cost will be several times what it was formerly, we can at least hope that it will be as satisfactorily performed.

4. **Ice-Cream.**

The standard of ice-cream continues to rise steadily both in food value and in purity. The increased attention given to ice-cream was indeed a light shining in a dark place and produced the usual effects of such a light.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Disease 1949.

DISEASE.	Corrected Notifications	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	23	8	—
Measles	251	—	—
Whooping Cough	61	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	9	1	10
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	3	1
TOTAL ...	350	14	11

The figures given in the Table are for corrected notifications, i.e. confirmed cases of disease. The figure for deaths from **Pneumonia** is not relatable to the figure for notifications; pneumonia is not infrequently entered as the cause of death in cases where there has been no notification.

Smallpox.

No cases were notified during the year, but we must continue our vigilance, as the import of Smallpox by people travelling by air from countries where it is prevalent is always a possibility, and we must strive to maintain a high state of vaccination in the community.

Diphtheria.

One mild case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Diphtheria is now becoming a clinical curiosity, and its near absence demonstrates clearly the value of diphtheria immunisation when one considers that pre-war an average of

12 cases a year were notified. When one considers that all these cases would be treated in hospitals over many weeks, it is obvious that, apart from the saving in lives and suffering, the financial saving by the use of immunisation must be considerable.

The number of children who completed a course of immunisation during the year 1949 was as follows :—

Primary Immunisation—

Under 5 years old	....	354
5—14 years old	....	32
		<hr/>
		386

Reinforcing (" Booster ")

Injection	298
-----------	------	-----

The " immunisation " state of children in the Rural District on the 31st December, 1949, was as follows :—

Age	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—9	10—15	Total
Number Immunised	25	286	256	256	243	1521	1298	3885
Related No. of Children (Approx.)	2411					4052		6463
% Immunised	44.2 %					69.6 %		60.1 %

The comparable percentage figures on 31st December, 1948 were :—

% Immunised	34 %	63 %	52 %
-------------	------	------	------

As children are not normally immunised until they reach the age of approximately ten months, the maximum possible percentage in the pre-school children is a little over eighty.

The percentage of pre-school children shows a very welcome increase during the year, though it appears to be by no means satisfactory, but investigation by sampling of groups of children shows that the great majority of children in the district are in fact now protected by immunisation. The discrepancy is due presumably to a considerable amount of immunisation by private doctors which was not recorded by the local authority and the immunisation of children outside the District for whom no records were obtained.

After July 5th, 1948, the service of Diphtheria Immunisation was taken over by the Worcestershire County Council under the National Health Service Act.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-three cases notified is a decrease on the previous year, but Scarlet Fever appears to be coming a much less severe disease ; indeed, it is not the usual thing to remove a case to

hospital unless home circumstances are such that treatment cannot be carried out satisfactorily at home.

As Scarlet Fever consists of sore throat plus a rash, and as the disease becomes less severe the rash becomes less marked, it is often not apparent or observed. The true incidence of Scarlet Fever in the community is, therefore, difficult to ascertain, but it is not thought to be less than in former times. The big change which has taken place in Scarlet Fever has been the change from a severe to a mild disease. As probably so many very mild cases occur, and it is very easy to recover the organisms from the throats of children and adults in the community at large, preventative measures have been greatly relaxed during the past few years. The complications caused by the causative organism are still fairly common. The commonest one is middle-ear infection, and one cannot stress too greatly the importance of parents taking their children for treatment whenever there are any signs of a discharge from the ear.

Measles.

The amount of Measles was a good deal more than in 1948. Measles appears to be again assuming its pre-war character of a high incidence in alternate years. It must still be regarded as a serious infection owing to the complications that may arise.

Whooping Cough.

There was a fall in the incidence of whooping cough during the year. It also must be regarded as a serious illness, due to the complications which may follow it. Fortunately, trials with the Whooping Cough Vaccine are showing that the vaccine affords a considerable protection and it is being increasingly brought into use.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is notifiable to the District Council and a Register of Tuberculosis sufferers is kept. Officers of the Health Department visit to give what advice they can with regard to housing.

The County Council is the Authority responsible for the provision of a Tuberculosis service and a Tuberculosis Visitor visits the home to advise as to measures to prevent the spread of the disease.

During the year there was an increase of three cases on the register of pulmonary tuberculosis, and of four cases of non-pulmonary, bringing the total to 141. This increase in the number of cases must be viewed with the very gravest disquiet, as it shows that the expected post-war fall in the incidence of the disease is not taking place. Tuberculosis must now constitute the major problem of Public Health, and in view of the

enormous amount of sickness and economic loss, considerable attention will have to be paid to solving it. The problem of Tuberculosis is greatly aggravated by the fact that it is a long chronic illness occurring in many cases in young adults and causing considerable economic loss and distress, and it requires extensive, expensive and prolonged treatment, which with the present nursing shortage is very difficult to provide. Also it has a high case fatality rate.

It is possible that the major factors of the continuance in this high incidence are: Firstly, lack of hospital facilities, which means that many cases do not receive the treatment they require and are often left in their overcrowded homes to spread the disease to other people; and, secondly, the poor housing position which continues to obtain, which means that many cases of Tuberculosis continue to live in overcrowded conditions which are favourable to the spread of Tuberculosis. One cannot but feel that if adequate sanatorium accommodation were forthcoming and if the housing situation could be improved, the incidence of Tuberculosis would begin to fall again.

Tuberculosis—Incidence and Mortality during 1949.

Age.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
15—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	5	3	1	2	—	—	1

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at December, 1949, was as follows :—

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Pulmonary	54	50	104
Non-pulmonary	19	18	37
Total	73	68	141

Food Poisoning.

Food poisoning continued to increase in importance during the year. Only a very small number of cases are reported to the local authority, and during the year doctors were circularised drawing attention to the need for its notification and pointing out that the local authority can do little to prevent the disease unless it has prompt and accurate information. In a small outbreak in Cofton Hackett one person died, one was seriously ill and one less seriously ill. The outbreak was due to a *Salmonella* organism carried by a tinned meat—when the latter was contaminated was not discovered.

Much greater publicity is necessary if food poisoning is to be eliminated. That the disease now seems to be on the increase is the impression one gets, though this is difficult to gauge as it appears that (1) many cases are not diagnosed as such by doctors; (2) many cases, even though diagnosed, were not notified; and (3) many cases are too mild for the sufferer to seek medical advice. The former has been dealt with by circularising the doctors practising in the district, and the latter will need attention this year by publicity campaigns. In many cases there is little that the sanitary authority can do, but in quite a number, provided notification is early, a good deal can be done to limit the extent of the outbreak.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work of my Department for the year 1949.

During the year, the preliminary work in connection with Survey of Housing Conditions was completed, and revealed that of the 6,805 houses included in the Survey, 340 were considered to be so sub-standard as to be classed as "unfit," whilst 556 houses were in need of considerable alterations and improvements to bring them up to a reasonable standard.

Owing to the fact that emphasis has been put upon building new houses, it has not been possible to pursue a vigorous policy with regard to older houses which are in urgent need of reconditioning, and consequently a large number are continuing to deteriorate.

A considerable amount of time has also been given to supervising the ever increasing number of caravans, due to the close proximity of Birmingham and other thickly populated urban areas around our borders. A very real need has driven these people to seek to establish home life temporarily in the restricted compass of a caravan, and with but very few exceptions they are deserving of all the help and sympathy that can be afforded them, until such time as they are able to be properly accommodated by the Authorities concerned. This is a national problem and, in my opinion, legislation should be passed controlling the rents of sites and caravans to prevent the exploitation of these unfortunate people. The question of providing properly controlled sites—either privately or by the responsible authorities, should be pursued.

Considerable attention has also been given to the question of water supplies, food premises, the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and rodent and insect control.

Space forbids the detailing of the many other duties carried out by my department during the year under review, and I am more than grateful for the help that has been given me by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. W. E. Hobbs, and by my staff, and also by Dr. N. Baster, who was such a helpful and congenial Medical Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS.

A total of 271 complaints were received during the year 1949, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following figures are given in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations 1935 :—

The numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year :—

Houses inspected	279
No. of inspections and re-inspections of houses	621
Inspections under Housing Regulations	—
Visits re Complaints and Nuisances	554
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	50
Knackers' Yard	17
Slaughter of Pigs on Private Premises	45
Milk and Dairies	520
Piggeries	73
Bakehouses	8
Schools	2
Factories and Workshops	32
Outworkers' Premises	11
Tents, Vans and Sheds	871
Water Supply	751
Works in Progress	363
Drainage	449
Shops, etc. (re unfit food)	25
Visits to Shops	217
Rodent Control	80
Outside Interviews	351
Building Licences	48
Verminous Premises	25
Miscellaneous	348
Total No. of informal Notices served during the year...	190

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	279
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	342
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	142

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	84
--	---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	—

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	75
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners.... ..	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|---|
| (i) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... | .... | .... | .... | — |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... | .... | .... | .... | — |

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding :—

It is not possible to supply accurate figures for overcrowding in the district.

General.

No demolition order was made during the year.

It was not found necessary to issue any statutory notices for the repair of houses, as in almost all cases an informal letter, if necessary followed by the threat of formal action, was successful in securing the carrying out of the repairs required.

Inspection of premises after application for building licences (in respect of property where no plans had to be submitted) entailed a considerable number of visits, but enabled supervision of essential work to be carried out.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Owing to the close proximity of the large industrial area of Birmingham and the Black Country, your district has presented a pleasant escape to many of the people who live and work in unpleasant and drab surroundings, and many have obtained huts and caravans which they use at week-ends and holiday times.

The many applications received reveal the need for properly controlled official sites, and the Council will be rendering a public service by making available such sites on approved positions.

A considerable amount of time of my staff and myself has been devoted to controlling caravans, etc., and seeing that there is compliance with the Public Health Act and the Council's Byelaws—871 visits being made in the course of the year.

The large site at Romsley operated by the Camping Club of Great Britain is a model of how a site should be controlled, and is always a pleasure to visit.

Eight site licences and forty-three individual licences to station Tents, Vans and Sheds were in force during the year. Almost four hundred of these structures are stationed in various places throughout the district, the greatest aggregation being at Hagley.

Those in full-time occupation are mainly used by persons unable to find housing accommodation. By licensing and inspection the general condition of all sites is satisfactory and the influx of holiday-makers has fortunately not assumed the proportions that are experienced in other parts of the county.

There are no hopfields in the District, and only one place where fruit pickers are accommodated. The conditions under which Messrs. T. & M. Dixon have accommodated their fruit pickers—chiefly school parties—have been to the full satisfaction of the Department.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

Routine visits to Dairy Farms and Dairies resulted in many improvements being carried out.

There were 235 dairy farms in the area and 520 visits were made to farms and dairies.

During the year, responsibility for the inspection and control of these farms passed to the Ministry of Agriculture, and at the same time the County Council became responsible for the licensing of Pasteurising and Sterilising establishments.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-46.

The following licences (including supplementary licences) were issued during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk

(1) Bottling 2	(2) Distribution 8
---------------------	-------------------------

Accredited Milk :

(1) Bottling 1	(2) Distribution —
---------------------	-------------------------

Pasteurised Milk :

(1) Pasteurising Plants 1	(2) Retail distributors 6
---------------------------	---------------------------

Sixteen samples of Pasteurised milk were taken and all were satisfactory.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There is no Centralized Slaughterhouse in the District.

Inspection of meat was confined to cottagers' pigs, 45 of which were examined. Routine inspection was carried out of food premises and premises of all new applicants for catering licences, etc., were visited and approved prior to the issue of the licences by the Food Office.

A total of 700 lbs. of foodstuffs of varying kinds was condemned as unfit for human consumption, and surrendered, during the year.

(c) Ice Cream.

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the manufacture of ice-cream was 8, and for retail sale only 52.

One hundred and forty-four samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological and chemical examination.

The results of the bacteriological samples were as follows :—

Provisional Grade	1	....	....	112	Satisfactory.
	2	....	....	12	
	3	....	....	17	Fair.
	4	....	....	3	Unsatisfactory.

Due partly to the improved position with regard to materials, i.e. fat, dried milk, sugar, etc., it is noted with pleasure that not only has there been a good hygienic standard maintained generally, but the food value of the ice-cream has considerably improved, and the average fat content of the 144 samples taken was 7.5 %.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

New drainage to existing houses was provided in 46 cases, 20 being to the sewer, and at 26 properties cesspools were provided. At a further 11 premises the drains were repaired.

The work of provision of Sewers and Sewerage Works for the village of Belbroughton was not commenced, as had been hoped, due to the restriction imposed by the Government on capital expenditure.

The need for Sewer extensions at Barkers Lane and Gorsey Lane, Wythall; and Hopwood, Alvechurch Parish; together with a scheme for Fairfield, Belbroughton Parish, are very urgent, and I feel that attention must be drawn thereto on every possible occasion.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.

Five renewals of licences were issued under the above Act during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Nine samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and were satisfactory.

All the eight samples of main water for chemical examination were satisfactory.

Seventy-nine samples of water from private wells were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination, and thirty-seven for bacteriological examination only. Of these, seventy-three were bacteriologically unsatisfactory and forty-four chemically unsatisfactory; thirty-five were chemically satisfactory and forty-three bacteriologically satisfactory.

Of the four samples of spring water examined chemically and bacteriologically, three were unsatisfactory, and the one sample which was examined bacteriologically only was satisfactory.

Ninety-five existing premises were connected to the water mains in the course of 1949.

A total of 4,862 yards of new main was laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year.

I would emphasise the need for pressing forward with the priority schemes which have been considered by the Council from time to time.

DISINFESTATION.

Five premises found to be infested with bugs were disinfested and five cases of infestation with fleas were also treated.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full-time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of eighty-five infestations of private houses, and forty-two at business premises, were successfully treated, and 546 visits were made for survey purposes.

Test baiting of the sewers was carried out, and two minor infestations were found and dealt with satisfactorily.

Periodic inspection and treatments of the refuse tips and sewage works was carried out throughout the year, a total of 283 visits being made.

It can be confidently stated that, as the result of the work that has been carried out both on Council Undertakings and at private and business premises, no serious cases of infestation were known to exist at the end of 1949.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

PREMISES.	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		
		Inspections. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	--	--
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	72	28	--	--
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	--	--	--
TOTAL	80	32	--	--

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)
			Referred :		
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector. (5)	By H.M. Inspector. (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	2	—	1	—

